



CORNWALL CHRONICLE



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Bear(s) With New Tricks

Cornwall's growing colony of bears is displaying new skills as it adapts to the human colony that shares its turf.

This spring the bears waking up from hibernation took on a new human-related problem. Last summer they seemed interested in houses where there's food and other interesting stuff. This spring it's been cars.

Matt Collins reports that just before Easter his family brought home a "large, pungent pizza" in the back seat of their Acura sedan. Did the box leak a bit? Did grease get on hands that closed the car door? Somehow a bear got wind of the pepperoni and decided to investigate.

What the Collinses found in the morning was an eviscerated Acura. The backseat had been ripped out and dragged 50 yards where they found it, bent in a U-shape, at the foot of a tree. The back of the seat was torn out and the headrests mangled.

How did the bear get into the car in the first place? Trial and error at the handle with its heavenly pizza smell? Or do bears know about cars now as another place where humans have food?

Bianca LaPorta has had similar thoughts since a bear (the same one?) got into her Subaru Impreza, parked at John and

Bianca's Great Hollow Road house. She had left two bags of animal feed on the back seat. The bear appeared overnight and dragged one grain sack away about 50 yards and left it under a tree. Is this a clue that this might be the Collins's bear?

Bianca's car was not badly damaged but there were a lot of very muddy paw prints on the seats. The console between the front seats had been yanked open and its lid snapped apart.

The answer might be to lock our cars at night but that risks the fury of a thwarted bear who smells the french fries you dropped on the floor mat yesterday. As for convertibles, well, a bear's claws will make short work of that ragtop. —Lisa L. Simont

Oliver Wolcott. Ian Tyson will return to Indian Mountain School for ninth grade.

The following will graduate from HVRHS: Mikayla Oyanadel; Kailyn Reilly; Blake Buckley (Western Connecticut State University); Cameryn Caruso (Southern Connecticut State University); Ciara Hurlburt (Central Connecticut State University); and Jacob Johnson (Springfield College).

Graduating from other New England schools: Gunnar Carlson, Salisbury School to Hobart & William Smith Colleges; Lucie Jadov, Brooks School to Chapman University; Rebecca Ridgway, Kent School to Hamilton College; Alea Laigle, Berkshire School to Denver University; Jamie Murphy, Marvelwood School with plans to enlist in the U.S. Navy; and Jamie Nicholas, Northfield Mount Hermon to St. Lawrence University.

Graduating after so many years of school is a big deal, and the *Chronicle* congratulates and sends best wishes to all the graduates. —Susan Francisco

Editor's note: It has become increasingly difficult to track down students due to new privacy laws (and the increasing rarity of phone book-listed names), so if we are missing an eighth-grader or high school senior who has not been acknowledged here, please contact the Chronicle and you will be honored in the July issue.

Forward!

It's June and time for Cornwall students to move on from at least eight different area schools. Graduation ceremonies will take place at CCS on June 19 and at Housatonic Valley Regional High School on June 20.

Leaving CCS and entering HVRHS next fall are Aubrey Johnson, Abigail Larson, Micah Matsudaira, Noah McCray, Natalie Nestler, Sarita Oyanadel, and Keaton Terrall. Acadia Johnson will attend The Gunnery, and Alden Weigold is heading to

JUNE 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Every Week This Month: Mondays: Yoga, 8:30–10 am Library; Mat Squad at 6:30 pm UCC; Karate , 6:30–7:30 pm Town Hall; Men's Senior Basketball 6:30–8:30 pm CCS ♦ Tuesdays: Zumba, 5:30–6:30 pm Library ♦ Wednesdays: Tai Chi, 5–7 pm Town Hall call 672-0064; Stitch 'n Spin , 7:15–8:30 pm UCC ♦ Thursdays: Pilates, 8:30–9:30 am Library; Toddler Play Group , 10:30–11:30 am Library; Meditation , 4–5 pm call Debra 672-0229 Zumba , 5:30–6:30 pm Library; Mah Jongg , 7–9 pm Library call 672-6874; Adult Volleyball , 7–9 pm CCS gym ♦ Fridays: Yoga 8:30–10 am Library ♦ Sundays: Yoga 9–10:30 am Library; Meditation , 1 pm call Debra 672-0229				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

*Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

Olympic Gold

Who knew that an athlete who started at Cornwall Consolidated School's Pee-Wee Ski Program at Mohawk would end up with Olympic gold?

Natasha De Elye Cole's first Special Olympics' competitions in elementary school were in track and field events. During her years at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, she concentrated on swimming events. Years after learning to downhill ski at CCS, she took up cross-country skiing through an area recreation program and started competing.

In 2015 at an event in Simsbury, Natasha earned both a gold and a silver medal, which qualified her to enter a lottery for the 2017 World Winter Games. And early in 2016, she learned she had won: she was going to Styria, Austria, for the 2017 Special Olympics.

Even before the training session in December at Killington, Vermont, Natasha and her father skied on Cream Hill if there was snow. Natasha said there was a festive send-off party at the Good News Café in Woodbury for the local athletes. There she received a wonderful shadow box with memorabilia from her life, like her Certificate of Merit for being an Outstanding Young Woman with Down Syndrome, and her sports participation.

Before leaving for Austria, Team USA gathered in Washington, DC, where there were more parties. Natasha, who is very sociable, said she met participants from all over the country, even as far as Washington state. Her group flew together to Austria.

As part of the welcoming events, she and the other athletes were treated to a bus trip in Austria and were greeted by all the school children in the town where they were housed. She formed friendships with other participants and came home with a lanyard covered with commemorative pins from all over the world.

Her parents, Toby and Sally Cole, along with some family members from England, stayed near the Ramsau skiing venue and saw Natasha win two gold medals in the 50-meter and the 100-meter events. To top off this exciting adventure, Natasha and her family visited Salzburg, Austria, and stayed at the Trapp family home, now a bed and breakfast. She can fill her scrapbook with some very shiny mementos and happy memories.

—Ann Gold

A Frog by Any Other Name

Yes, my fellow citizens, it is a frog—the painted rock formation along Route 7 just north of Route 45, which has delighted (and sometimes terrified) generations of kids. It's also been called a snake, a dragon, a monster, and a turtle, but due to some digital sleuthing on the part of my grandson Max, soon to be 14, we now know for sure what it was meant to be, and who created it.

The story unraveled, thanks to Max, in a one-man website about all sorts of sights and sites in Connecticut, ctmq.org, whose tagline is "Destroying the myth that there's nothing to do here." The unnamed writer, collecting photos of rock animals, found ours and posted a photo in 2009. Three years later, he got a reply from a Marge in Florida under the header Frog Rock Cornwall, excerpted here:

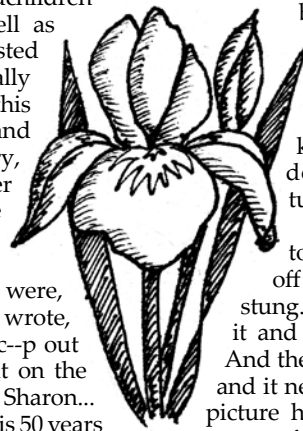
"In 1948, when I was 14, my brother and I painted big eyes, mouth and teeth on the rock and added a red stone for a tongue. We repainted it for the next few years...it became a local 'landmark'...After I moved away, others took over." Those anonymous helpers cut the grass and trees around it and added fresh green paint.

The plot thickens with later posts from people in the know: Cathy Wilson, Marge's daughter-in-law, and Karen Bishop, her niece, both wrote to identify Kent teenagers Margaret Grusauski Wilson and her brother, Karen's father John Grusauski, as the original artists. Even into the '70s, Cathy notes, nobody was fessing up to the creation due to some lingering fear about getting into trouble, which of course fueled a bunch of stories by imposters who tried to hijack the credit. And others did take over to keep it painted from year to year.

Someone sent Marge an article in 2006 speculating about its origin—possibly Helen Vanam's letter to the *Chronicle* in June 2005 which made a glancing reference to "the Frog Rock in Cornwall Bridge ... and the mysterious artists who have kept it painted" and she contacted the *Lakeville Journal* with her story. Soon after, columnist Brigitte Ruthman called her for a piece in the *Republican-American*, which is in its archives. Turns out it was actually a state worker painting the center line along Route 7 who first impulsively painted two white eyes on the rock—but the two Grusauskis finished the job. "The frog came to life in a more innocent time," Ruthman commented, "when pranksters were motivated by good humor, not harm."

It remains a landmark to this day, eagerly awaited by my grandchildren among many others, as well as several people who also posted to CTMQ. Melanie, originally from Rowayton, shared this tradition with her daughter and as recently as this February, mother (age 59) and daughter (24) "couldn't wait to see the rock formation" on their way from Rowayton to their home in Vermont. Others were, well, freaked out: Annabelle wrote, "this rock used to scare the c-p out of us when we drove past it on the way to the doctor's office in Sharon... It didn't look as friendly as this 50 years ago."

—Carol Schneider



Good-bye to Friends

Ira Howard Friedman
Paula V. Holmes
Glenn O'Brien
Michael Savan, Sr.
Angela J. Ule

Land Transfers

Bianca Fiore LaPorta and John LaPorta to Basil P. Smith and Jill K. Perno, property with all improvements thereon at 90 Popple Swamp Road for \$425,000.

MNKNY, LLC to 56 Whitcomb Hill, LLC, 80.512 acres of land with all buildings and improvements thereon at 56 Whitcomb Hill Road for \$4,200,000.

Rosalie R. Furniss to Richard H. and Stacey L. Dolan, land with buildings and improvements thereon at 173 Cornwall Hollow Road for \$110,000.

Weld Royal and Marc Matsil to Lynn E. Boettger and Gerald F. Connors, Jr., land with buildings and improvements thereon at 19 Great Hollow Road for \$200,000.

Donald T. Kenniston to Sara Varghese, two parcels of land with all improvements thereon at 19 Clark Hill Road, for \$390,000.

Jeanne R. Jones, Executor for the Estate of Joan Titus, to Robert and Nell Nicholas, land with buildings and improvements thereon at 5 Twixt Road for \$187,500.

A Kid's Summer in Cornwall

This time of year meant only one thing to me when I was 8 years old: I was going to Cornwall for the summer. No more city streets and hot asphalt, I would be barefoot all day unless my grandmother made me wear shoes.

The whole of Cornwall Village was there to be explored, especially the lovely mucky brook behind the Calhouns' barn. But the place I remember the best, whose memory brought me back to Cornwall to live, is the lake. Kids from all over town met on the "club side" every day, often without parents, to swim, build dams and waterworks on the beach, and look for box turtles along the shore.

Presiding over the swimmers and the beach engineers was a series of young local women who were the lifeguards. The one I remember the best is Maureen Prentice, kind and firm, who kept order and made us sit on the dock for a rest when our lips turned blue in the cold water.

We swam and swam. We raced to third raft and did cannonballs off the diving board until our skin stung. If a canoe was available, we sank it and played in the submerged boat. And the sun shone and shone every day and it never rained, in my memory. This picture has stayed with me for over 60 years, as fresh now as it was then.

—Lisa L. Simont

From the Past
Memorial Day Memory

Yes, I was in Cornwall Hollow on Memorial Day 1900. I remember the day well, 94 years ago. Our whole family was there. The boys, being boys, were able to go around where they pleased. We four girls had to sit close to Mama, in a shady place. I remember there were crowds of people, and horses and carriages hitched at almost every fence post along the roads.

A man on a fenced-in platform seemed very angry as he shouted and hit his fists together. I didn't think much of him. After he stopped yelling, Papa came to our group and asked Mama to come with him to shake hands with this man, who was the Governor. Mama was very shy and said she wasn't dressed well enough. Papa got very red in his face and snatched up Esther, who was very beautiful with her long curls and white dress. He started toward the man within the fence but, if Esther was to shake hands with the Governor, I wanted to be there too, and started after Papa. Mama caught my apron and held me back, so I didn't get to shake hands with the Governor.

Mama gave me an egg sandwich and a drink of cold lemonade from the dipper in a ten-gallon milk can. I didn't care any longer about the Governor, who had yelled and pounded his fists.

—Harriet Clark, May 1994

Harriet Clark (1894–1997) grew up in East Cornwall, earned an M.A. from Columbia University in 1942 and worked for many years as a teacher in Cornwall. She served in the State House of Representatives until 1965. After leaving politics she composed essays about life in Cornwall during the early decades of the 20th century.



Cornwall Briefs

•**Hammond Beach:** That's the town beach and it opens on June 16 with a new director, Cornwall's own Marina Kotchoubey. Marina moves up to the top spot after several summers of lifeguard duty and swim team coaching. Word is she is planning some special events, such as an evening concert and picnics. You can obtain beach passes at the selectmen's office, \$20 for families and \$10 for individuals. For more info call 672-4959 and talk to Joyce. To connect with Marina about beach closings and special events, search on Facebook for hammondbeachct.

•**Flat Rocks Bridge:** Voters have approved the hiring of Towne Aurell of Morris to repair/rebuild the bridge on said road. Work will be done in August or September,

Letters to the Chronicle

ART@THEDUMP 2017

As we like to say, "Art@TheDump" marks the beginning of Cornwall's social season. Judging by the success of this year's show, it's going to be a remarkable season. The weatherman promised us temperatures in the 60s but delivered 40s instead. No gale-force winds however, for which we are grateful. None of this deterred the stalwart citizens of Litchfield County and beyond who oohed and aahed over the marvelous recycled art and bought lots of the same.

Each year, just before we take possession of the sand shed, it is filled to the rafters with gravel needed to oil and stone the roads of our fair town. The hard-working road crew clears it out and even sweeps the floor just in time. We have the Cornwall Association to thank for the yard signs dotted around town announcing A@TD. It has supported us now for the 17 years of our existence.

First place went to Cornwall's Aaron Pequinot for his welded coat rack. Second went to James Hackett of Salisbury for his magnificent eagle, and third went to me for my crutchfish. One thousand dollars was donated to the art department of CCS.

The seventh grade held its annual bake sale to help finance the Washington trip and Rose Buchen brought her tiny library and gave away books. All and all it was a fun event as only Cornwall can provide.

See you next year on April 28 and 29.

—Gail Jacobson

FROM OUR HAWAIIAN FRIEND

I am elated to share great news of events to come, beginning on the weekend of June 17 and 18, 2017. The bicentennial of the opening of the Foreign Mission School will be celebrated in events in Cornwall Village. From the shores of Hawaii, we see these happenings as the kick-off events honoring the presence of American

Foreign Missions in Hawaii for 200 years. From the inspiration of my dearest family member, Henry Opukahaia, with the encouragement of the Dwight family, and the eager brothers in Christ here in Cornwall, the Foreign Mission School was founded. Today the historical importance of the Steward's house on Bolton Hill Road, owned by Amy Johnson and Ben Gray, has at last received national recognition.

Although Henry Opukahaia died of typhus a year after the school's opening in 1817, his courage and the faith remain today. I was born on June 17 in 1979, so this celebration marks a rite of passage for me as you are all my family. I will forever be your daughter and will continue to share my journey with you. Today I am here in Hawaii, and I look forward to seeing you all as we celebrate the beginnings of Henry Opukahaia's legacy, which lives on through all of us.

—Kauanoë Hoomanawanui

AVOIDING COLLISION AT THE P.O.

What is the old saying: "There are no atheists in foxholes or exiting the parking lot of the West Cornwall Post Office?" Tom Barrett ably described the dangers in the May issue of entering Route 128 there.

There are several ways to mitigate the chances of an accident. A sign could be placed at the blinking light before the curb: "Caution, slow down! Vehicles entering roadway below the curve." A reflector system might be set up warning drivers of coming traffic.

The best approach might be to turn the blinking light into a traffic signal, which would turn red when a vehicle entered 128 from the parking lot. Sensors in the lot entering the road would trigger the light. This would necessitate making the lot area near the curve the entrance, and the exit would be at the post office end.

—Jim Fishman

which means a stretch of Flat Rocks will be closed to traffic during construction. This is the same company that worked on the Valley Road bridge last year.

•**Hazardous Waste Day** is coming up on Saturday, June 3, so get all those household hazards ready to take to the Falls Village public garage just off Route 7 between the hours of 9 and noon on the big day.

•**SNAP Recipients:** Seven special training programs are being offered to you on an ongoing monthly basis at Northwestern CT Community College in Winsted. For more information call SNAP Coordinator Erin Kennedy at 860-738-6419. SNAP is the name for the food stamps program and stands for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.



•**Julius Caesar:** That's the answer to a question the Cornwall Consolidated School quiz team answered on its way to victory in the Lakeville Journal Quiz Cup, Cornwall's first win in the 19 years of this challenge. Our team, led by social studies teacher Will Vincent, included Hudson Sebranek, Harry Sanders, Thea West, Will Taaffe, Reilly Hedden, Alden Weigold, Keaton Terrall, Micah Matsudaira, Abby Larson, and Noah McCray. The team was undefeated in stiff competition with other Region One schools. Principal Michael Croft, CCS staff, and families offered lots of support. Our hats are tipped to all. Oh, the question? "A group led by Cassius and Brutus assassinated what Roman dictator on the Ides of March?" —John Miller

Events & Announcements

Art in Cornwall

Opening reception for Karen LeSage's show, "Dive into Spring and Summer," at the Cornwall Library, will be Saturday, June 3, at 5 P.M. The show will run from May 24 through July 15 (see insert).

The Souterrain Gallery will host an opening reception on Saturday, June 10, from 3 to 6 P.M., for an exhibit in collaboration with members of the Housatonic Camera Club. The show will be up through July 9.

At the Parish House, "A Show of Peace," artwork by children of the UCC, will continue through June 11.

The Toll House Gallery will continue to showcase the work of Donald Bracken in addition to newly added works by Lennart "Swede" Ahrstrom and Scott Zuckerman. Hours are Mondays through Fridays, 9 A.M. to 5 P.M., and Saturdays, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Cornwall Contra Dance: Come swing in tune on Saturday, June 3, at 7 P.M. at town hall, with old time music by Still, the Homegrown Band and calling by Rich Sbardella. All ages welcome, no partner necessary! Donation requested to pay the caller. For more information, call Jane Prentice at 672-6101 or visit motherhouse.us.



Cornwall Country Market for \$8.75. Meet at the UCC Parish House at 9 A.M. RSVP by June 6 to Jen Markow, 672-4071 or prcornwall@gmail.com.

Motherhouse Events

All events are at Local Farm, 22 Popple Swamp Road. Participants must preregister; for more information, call 672-0229 or go to Debra@motherhouse.us.

June 9: Full Moon Drumming Circle, 7 P.M.

June 10: Keeping a Family Cow, 10 A.M.

June 10: Bat Count, 6:30 P.M.

June 24: Women's Drumming Circle, 7 P.M.

At the Cornwall Library:

Books and Blooms: "The Art of the Kitchen Garden." Lecture, cocktail reception, and silent auction drawing on Friday, June 9; tour of five gardens on Saturday, June 10. (See insert for details.)

Children's Summer Camp: Once again the library is offering two weeks for full day summer camp, June 26 to 30 and August 21 to 25.

The fee is \$75. Space is limited. Please contact library for details.

June 17, 5 P.M.: *Doc of the Damned*, student film by Cornwall resident Erik Kenniston. Erik will discuss the making of the film prior to the showing, followed by time for questions.

The Morris Dancers will make their annual appearance on Saturday, June 10, around 4 P.M. in downtown West Cornwall. Worth watching for the leaps and twists of the dancers, accompanied by the sound of hundreds of little bells on their costumes.

Birding and Finding Signs of Wildlife:

The Cornwall Conservation Trust's Summer Walk on Sunday, June 11, at 10 A.M. will be led by Jean Bouteiller, board member and master wildlife conservationist. Meet at the Rattlesnake Road Preserve parking area (southern end of road, closest to Cogswell).

Cornwall Historical Society:

June 16: Opening reception 5 to 7 P.M. for this year's summer exhibit on Cornwall's industrial past, "Made in Cornwall," designed and curated by Jamie Cantoni. The program is free to the public and refreshments will be served. Viewing hours are Saturdays 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.; Sundays and holiday Mondays 1 to 4 P.M.

June 18: "Whose Mission?" a colloquium on the history of the Foreign Mission School at 2 P.M. in the town hall at 26 Pine Street (see insert).

Cornwall Town Beach Party: June 16, 5 to 8 P.M. at Cream Hill Lake Association, 238 Town St. Hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers. Drinks provided by Park and Rec, ice cream by the Cornwall Agriculture Commission. Please bring a side dish or dessert. Lifeguards will be on duty during the party.

Foreign Mission School Bicentennial Events will take place from 10 a.m. until after 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 17, and also on Sunday, June 18. (See insert for details.)

June is for the Dogs: The state of Connecticut requires that all dogs six months of age or older be licensed annually on or before June 30 in the town clerk's office in the town where the dog is owned or kept. Licenses will become available on June 1. A current rabies vaccination certificate must be submitted or be on file. Neutered or spayed dogs cost \$8 and male or female dogs cost \$19. For a neutered or spayed dog being licensed for the first time, a certificate from a licensed veterinarian must be presented. Penalties apply for late registration. If you register by mail, enclose a SASE for return of tag and license.

The Cornwall Conservation Commission announces the launch of its website, cornwallconservation.org, a repository for information and maps of Cornwall's natural resources. Quarterly reports about updates will be posted. The commission welcomes the participation of all Cornwallians in determining the content of the site.



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19 Minutes

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